

greater protection for children. Children are most at risk of suffering from the toxicity of lead paint. Lead is a dangerous substance, especially so for children under the age of six, who are only beginning the process of developing their bodies and brains. Lead paint can cause nervous system damage, loss of hearing, stunted growth, severe kidney damage, and can even disrupt the development of the brain and the faculty of cognition.

Lead-contaminated household dust, resulting from lead paint is the primary cause of lead poisoning in children throughout the United States. Though the number of children in the United States with dangerous levels of lead has dropped from 13.5 million in 1978, roughly 300,000 children still have unsafe blood lead levels that are in excess of 10 micrograms per deciliter. 300 thousand, a number equaling half of the population of Texas District 18, are currently at a distinct risk of suffering from lead poisoning. Indeed, this is a major problem.

Of the \$43.4 billion spent in the United States annually on pediatric environmental disease, a great majority goes to combating and treating childhood lead poisoning. It is because of this that we must act now in putting forth more stringent testing requirements to combat the grave danger posed by lead paint.

Upon enactment of the act, the HUD will have 90 days to comply with the new environmental intervention blood lead level of at or above 10 micrograms of per deciliter, the point at which the CDC has found cause for concern. This bill will save countless children from suffering from the myriad ailments that come hand in hand with lead paint.

The tragedies of these children and others have exposed the fundamental problem which this bill addresses. For too long there has been no clear federally mandated standard to indicate excess blood lead levels in households, or to require action. This bill will go far to ensure that the children of our Nation are able to enjoy good health, by making certain that all houses become lead safe.

Recently I amended H.R. 2352, the "School Safety Enhancement Act of 2007", which sought to enhance the safety of our elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher learning, by increasing the amount of money available for school safety. It is critical especially that we make funds available for poor communities, and specifically to require the creation of a tip hotline for school officials, parents, and students, to report the existence of hazards and chemicals. I also provided amendments that would require institutions to create a safety plan, dealing with potential terror, chemical, or otherwise hazardous situations. These concerns for the safety of children in schools are similar to those concerns that I have for the wellbeing of children in their homes. In both situations, I believe children should be free from the dangers presented by hazardous materials and situations, including the threat of lead paint.

As the safety of children should be critical to all Americans, I urge my colleagues to support this act to protect our Nation's children and our Nation's future from harm's way.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS AFRICAN UNION MISSION IN DARFUR (UNAMID)

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1351. This resolution expresses the support for the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur. It also calls upon United Nation Member States and the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of the mission.

On July 8, 2008, seven U.N. peacekeepers were killed and an additional 22 were wounded while serving on the mission to bring peace and stability to the Darfur region of Sudan. This is only the latest in series of attacks on the peacekeepers. The severe lack of troops, police officers, and air transport limits the mission's effectiveness.

Despite the deployment of 26,000 peacekeepers, their efforts are constantly thwarted by the Sudanese government and rebels. Clearly, the success of the mission depends on additional contributions of U.N. Member Nations and the international community. Therefore, I ask Congress to condemn the attacks on the U.N. peacekeepers in Darfur and I ask that the Sudanese government ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.

We express our full commitment to the people of Darfur and call on all members of the international community to contribute the resources necessary to ensure the success of the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur. We cannot in good conscience turn away from this troubled region. It deserves our full support and attention to bring a halt to the atrocities committed in this area of the world.

TRIBUTE TO NICK DONOFRIO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Connecticut resident Mr. Nick Donofrio who is retiring after more than 40 years in various leadership capacities at the IBM Corporation.

Nick joined IBM in 1967 and spent the early part of his career in integrated circuit and chip development, as a designer of logic and memory chips. He held numerous technical management positions and, later, executive positions in several of IBM's product divisions. He has led many of IBM's major development and manufacturing teams—from semiconductor and storage technologies, to microprocessors and personal computers, to IBM's entire family of servers.

Nick has always been a champion for innovation across IBM and its global ecosystem. He has been the leader of IBM's global technology strategy. In addition to his strategic business mission, Nick has led the development and retention of IBM's technical population and strives to enrich that community with a diversity of culture and thought.

Nick has been focused sharply on advancing education, employment and career opportunities for underrepresented minorities and women—all issues of great importance to me as well.

He served for many years on the Board of Directors for the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering (NACME). He has served on the Board of Directors for INROADS, a non-profit organization focused on the training and development of talented minority youth for professional careers in business and industry, and he is co-chair of the New York Hall of Science. A fellow Italian-American, Nick was awarded the prestigious 2007 National Education and Leadership Award from the Sons of Italy Foundation.

He is the holder of seven technology patents and is a member of numerous technical and science honor societies. In 2002, Nick was recognized by Europe's Institution of Electrical Engineers with the Mensforth International Gold Medal for outstanding contributions to the advancement of manufacturing engineering. In 2003, he was named Industry Week magazine's Technology Leader of the Year, the University of Arizona's Technical Executive of the Year, and was presented with the Rodney D. Chipp Memorial Award by the Society of Women Engineers for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in the engineering field. In 2005, Nick was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he was presented with Syracuse University's highest alumni honor—the George Arents Pioneer Medal, and he was honored by CNBC with its Overall Technology Leadership Award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Nick Donofrio as he begins a new, exciting chapter in his life.

TELL CITY SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, 2008 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of Tell City, in Perry County, Indiana. Nestled on the Ohio River and surrounded by the natural beauty of the Hoosier National Forest, the city's 7,500 citizens personify a warm and welcoming demeanor and help define the term "Hoosier Hospitality."

The Town's ceremonial observance of this anniversary will be held beginning Saturday, August 2nd continuing through August 9th, 2008. Organized to coincide with the city's annual Schweizerfest, itself a Hoosier treasure developed in 1959 after the city's centennial celebration, a number of celebratory events have been planned including musical performances, historical tours, steamboat river cruises, a city picnic, as well as a parade and trolley tours. I look forward to celebrating Tell City's Sesquicentennial with its residents and attending some of these events during the festival.

The history of Tell City is richly accentuated by the story of European immigrants that came to our country during the 19th Century. The story begins not in Indiana but in neighboring Cincinnati, Ohio. Cincinnati was a